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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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11 July 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation.

Northern Korean forces have pushed forward slowly at several points along the front in the past 24 hours. The pattern of Northern concentration and movement indicated that the invaders are preparing for a two-pronged drive on Taejon. Enemy concentrations in the Chonan-Chinchon area are attempting first to outflank Chochiwon and ultimately to outflank Taejon itself from the West. Meanwhile, Northern forces in the Umsong-Chungju area are preparing to outflank Taejon from the east. In addition, Northern elements near Chungju may attempt to advance through Hamchang to Kumchon, in order to cut communications between Taejon and Taegu.

In yesterday's ground operations, Northern troops advanced several miles south of Chomul before their progress was halted by US forces in position 8 miles northwest of Chochiwon. Northern forces continued to build up troop and armor in nearby Chongan. The reorganized Southern First Corps, faced with strong pressure from the Umsong-Chichon area, withdrew south and east to new positions. On the east coast, Northern activity on an increasing scale was reported.

Invading forces were subjected to "round-the-clock" air attacks involving more than 300 sorties. FEAF claims 46 Northern tanks destroyed and 26 damaged in yesterday's operations. Although three YAK-15 jet fighters were reportedly observed over Chonan, the Northern air force generally remained inactive. No significant naval developments were reported.

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- 2 -

II. Political Stability.

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Ambassador Muccio met with President Rhee on 10 July, and found him "cheerful, composed, and resolute." The President has agreed to remain in Taegu for the time being, but feels strongly that for morale reasons there should be no formal transfer of the Cabinet from Taejon to Taegu. Rhee has agreed, however, that the National Assembly Emergency Council should congregate in Taegu, and will issue a statement to that effect.

Several pro-Northern guerrilla bands -- numbering from 15 to 800 -- are reported to be in action in the general area northwest of the Southern city of Pohang. These bands are believed to be only partly armed. Although at present they pose no immediate threat to internal security, these bands will grow and become more effective in the event of further military successes by North Korean forces.

S. H. HILLENKOTTER
Rear Admiral, USN
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